

# Connellsville Bed & Breakfast

Exquisite, Affordable, On the Trail

When I arrived at the Connellsville Bed & Breakfast last week, owner Lucille King was busy stripping the paint from her back porch. Her hard work and endearing smile told me I was in for a treat. I grew up in Connellsville when it was a busy town, long before the Great Allegheny Passage bike and hike trail came through. The GAP runs just behind the bed and breakfast, gently pulling the once extraordinarily wealthy town, out of a depression.

## Caters to Bicyclists

From the outside, the Connellsville B & B looks like a well-kept light brick commercial building. Lucy took me into the garage where they supply bicyclists with bikes, locked indoor bike storage, a work area, tools, air, and an outdoor hose. Now, I have a wild imagination, but my mind did not conjure up the exquisite comfort held within the walls of Lucy's abode. Upon opening the front door, a crystal chandelier sparkles its welcome into this beautifully renovated, historical home.

## Historical and Plush

Ross' Grocery Store sold the building in 1966 as Connellsville stated its decline. When Lucy looked it over a decade ago, it was in disrepair in every way. A total reclamation was in order and this wonderfully talented visionary hired Connellsville contractor and native, Larry Garlick, to make her dreams come true. I have been in many B & B's in my lifetime, but none in more lovely condition.

Before creating the Connellsville Bed & Breakfast, Lucy sold imported Czech and Slovakian crystal, cut glass and jewelery. The glass pieces in the dining area will make you whistle. Lucy showed me around the dining and living area before heading upstairs where five guest rooms offer hikers and bicyclists shelter from the trail. In honor of the town's ancestors, the rooms are named the German Room, the Irish Room, the French Room, the Italian Room and the Slovakian Room.

I stayed in the German room which offered an extra sitting area with rocking chair and futon, and windows facing the GAP trail head. Her attention to every detail is a guest's dream. In an upstairs hallway nook, a refrigerator with refreshments and coin operated laundry make trail life easy.

Upon opening the door to the German Room, another crystal chandelier caught my eye. I was exhausted and wanted to throw myself on top of the king sized bed and stare at it as it shone in the sun light, but Lucy had my rapt attention. My bedroom had a private bath with double sink and modern shower.

## Breakfast by Lucy with Texans & Virginians

Did I sleep well? After showering and rocking in one of the thick terry robes provided, I melted into the thick bed. I slept in, then headed down the shining wooden stairs to join the other guests for breakfast at 7:30 A. M. I took the seat at the head of the table so that I could see everyone and chat if they were obliged.

A couple from Arlington, Virginia sat nearest me. These two funny, interesting bicyclists have stayed all over the world, and biked many trails throughout the United States. They were my age and adventurers with stories of their own. But the one thing I remember from our hour long interaction was her saying, "This is the most exquisite bed and breakfast we have ever experienced. Every little thing is taken care of and in perfect condition!" I smiled and drank my tea.

Five more guests arrived, also world travelers and my age. They were from Texas, hilarious and thoroughly enjoying themselves. Everyone was enjoying the Muesli and yogurt in bowls down the center of the table. Lucy later told me that she serves Muesli to replace the bicyclists electrolytes.

Just as I brought up the subject of the crystal chandeliers, Don, Lucy's right hand man, started serving breakfast. We oohed and awed at the presentation of the crusted vegetable quiche, strip-fried potatoes and fresh fruit. I noticed that everyone finished their delicious meal. When Lucy joined us to see how things were going, I asked about the chandeliers that shone everywhere I ventured.

Lucy imported them from Czechoslovakia and the Republic of Slovakia. I asked how they keep them clean. There were so many intricate pieces and designs. This explanation will give you insight into the creative and detail-oriented Lucille King. Each chandelier takes the two of them up to four days to clean. She takes them apart piece by tiny piece, laying each bit of crystal on a large towel on the dining room table. After gently cleaning hundreds of them, she puts them back together!

In the Slovakian Room, Lucy's grandmother's wedding dress hangs in a glassed in frame, a testament their heritage. Her passport and photograph with young daughter, hang on the wall.

Lucy's Connellsville Bed & Breakfast is not to be missed. Biking, hiking or driving, the accommodations and customer service will wow you wherever your trail leads.

### **Location, Location, Location**

The Connellsville Bed & Breakfast is located on Route 711 at 316 W. Crawford Avenue, Connellsville, PA 15425, just four blocks from the Amtrak station. Phone: (724) 603-2533, 1-877-892-8900, [info@crystal-bohemian.com](mailto:info@crystal-bohemian.com). @ConnellsvilleBednBreakfast. It is a gorgeous, short drive to Fallingwater, Kentuck Knob, Ohio pyle State Park, Fort Necessity, wineries, all of the Laurel Highlands, Pittsburgh and Morgantown, WV.

The Connellsville B & B has WIFI throughout the building, Smart TV, Netflix and air conditioning, amenities we all expect, but it is the ambiance that will bring you back.